

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 5/3/2019

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Monday, May 6	Design Review Committee, 5:30 PM, City Council Chambers
Monday, May 6	Development Review Board, 7 PM, City Council Chambers
Tuesday, May 7	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee Special Meeting, 5:30 PM, City Council Chambers
Tuesday, May 7	Transportation Infrastructure Committee, 6 PM, Memorial Room
Wednesday, May 8	City Council, 6:30 PM, City Council Chambers
Thursday, May 9	Conservation Commission, 7 PM, City Council Chambers

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

1 Taylor Street/Recreation Path

Construction on this project remains on schedule. Work on the Mowatt Property (Montpelier Beverage) has begun. We have been working with the businesses located in the one building that backs up to the construction site to help them work through delivery issues during the three months of the project. Work is moving fairly quickly, and soon that site will have green space, additional parking spaces, improved stormwater systems, and a road to enable large trucks to deliver to businesses in the North Branch lot. Vermont Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn toured the Transit Center, Housing, recreation path site and pedestrian bridge abutments on Monday. He was pleased with the progress. The pedestrian bridge was assembled and dropped into place on Wednesday, before a small crowd of onlookers. It was a pretty amazing piece of engineering.

Public Parking Garage

The District Commission approved the Act 250 permit for the hotel and garage on Thursday. The approval contained no additional conditions or restrictions other than what had been previously developed by the city, Capitol Plaza and state agencies.

We are very pleased that the strong decision from the District Commission provides independent confirmation that the hotel and parking garage appropriately fit in our core downtown. The Act 250 process sets a high bar. We were confident that this project addressed all key requirements – environmental, historic, traffic, and others. This important project has now obtained the public vote of support, local Development Review Board permits, all relevant state permits, TIF approval and this positive Act 250 decision.

Strategic Planning

The reports and preliminary outline from the Novak Consulting Group will be on the May 8th meeting agenda. The full detailed work plan and calendar will be on the May 22nd agenda.

City Website

As most of you know, we have been making changes to our website– specifically the agenda, minutes and video section linked to Council, DRB, DRC and Planning Commission. The goal is to improve the searchability of those sites, which currently are difficult to search and to have all agendas and minutes, from all boards and committees, in one place. After months of work, and trial and error, we are planning to launch the new program

on Monday. In a perfect world, which doesn't actually exist we've discovered, people will be able to log onto our City website and in one easy step search all of our meeting agendas, minutes, etc., and the video feed (again, in the mythical perfect world) will be cleaner for viewers. That said, we are fully expecting some hiccups after we hit the 'go' button! So hang in there with us, let us know of problems you experience, and we'll keep pushing to improve our site for folks looking for good information. Thank you for your patience, in advance!

If you're watching a DRB, DRC or Council meeting on our website next week and the live stream doesn't seem to work, you can access the video live stream on ORCA Media's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/orcamedia> or on their website, <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/live-stream-events>

Legal – unchanged

The City's petition to enter the proceedings concerning GMP's re-construction of the Marshfield Dam has been approved. We are now a party to the matter, for the purpose of monitoring the information in case there is anything relevant to the city.

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Finance

Third quarter installment of property tax bills are due Wednesday, May 15th. Payments may be made in person at the City Clerk's office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., by mail, or 24hours a day by utilizing the drop box at the rear entrance to City Hall. You may also pay online using Official Payments [by clicking this link](#). An administrative fee is charged by the vendor for online payments. In addition, the City offers convenient and free automatic payment processing. By signing up, you never have to worry about missing a payment. The payment is withdrawn from your bank account electronically on the actual due date. This service is available for property tax payments, water/sewer bills or both. If you would like to enroll, [please click on this link to complete the authorization form](#). You can drop off the completed enrollment form at the City Clerk's office or mail to:

City of Montpelier
Attn: Treasurer
39 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Planning & Community Development

The Planning & Community Development Department congratulates SE Group for being recommended unanimously to develop Montpelier's new Downtown Master Plan. The proposal review committee met on Wednesday to interview finalists for the project that began in March with the City sending out a request for proposals. This project is intended develop a Downtown Master Plan that would incorporate many separate plans into a single downtown master plan to guide future decision making in this area. Plans such as the Economic Development Strategic Plan, Barre/Main Scoping Study, Stormwater Master Plan, Emerald Ash Borer street tree replacement, Montpelier in Motion, and the Montpelier complete streets plan will be used as a foundation to make a visual plan that shows how we could transform the city's streets, parking lots and other parcels to balance and meet our competing demands for this space. While previous studies may have identified that we want separated bike lanes on Main Street, for example, this plan will show in much more detail how we can incorporate the street lights, benches, garbage cans, cross walks, sandwich board signs, and street trees while still leaving room for our sidewalks, bike lanes, and parking spaces. This plan will have sufficient detail for the City to use it to move forward on developing engineered drawings to prepare for construction.

Before any of that can happen the City needs to have a robust public input process to make sure all ideas are considered and voices of those who may be impacted are heard. SE Group will be responsible for guiding that

process and for developing the final plan. The review committee was made up of interested persons from our downtown groups (Dan Groberg, Laura Gebhart), 2 members from the Montpelier Transportation Infrastructure Committee (Ian Anderson, Constantinos Stivaros), 2 members with environmental and open space interests (Elizabeth Courtney, Richarda Ericson) and one from the Complete Streets Committee (Gary Holloway). The City received 5 proposals and SE Group was selected due in part to their experience working with communities such as St. Albans City and Burlington who took these same goals from ideas to reality in similar urban centers. The committee voted unanimously to recommend that the contract be awarded to SE Group. We look forward to kicking this process off in June or July as soon as the final Barre/ Main Scoping study is complete.

Community Services

Let's Go to a Ball Game!

All are invited to join MSAC members, friends and family for a Red Sox game at Fenway Park on Sunday, June 9th. It's going to be so much fun! A comfortable motor coach bus will deliver you from Montpelier and drop you off at the doors of Fenway. You won't have to deal with Parking, and the bus will bring you back to Montpelier at the end of the evening. Event is open to all (*ages 17 and under will need to be accompanied by an adult*) and members of the public are welcome. Tickets are limited, so don't delay! Contact the front office at Montpelier Senior Activity Center by June 2 to reserve your spot. \$97 per person regardless of age or town of residence.

Lots of other MSAC Trips available throughout the spring and summer; including two bike trips in May along the Burlington Bike Path. For more details about these trips and many of the others please visit <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/313/Trips>.

TreeCity 2019 Event at MSAC: How to Green the World's Deserts and Reverse Climate Change Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Montpelier Senior Activity Center

How can we be part of the climate change solution? And what does soil have to do with it? Come watch a movie and talk with the Co-Founder of Soil4Climate, a guy who knows his dirt about healthy soils, trees, and climate. Free and open to the public. Donations to support the Montpelier Tree Board, who organized this TreeCity 2019 event, are greatly appreciated! To learn more, visit <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/495/TreeBoard>.

20-hour per week Training position in facility support at 58 Barre Street

This is a twenty hour per week, stipend position for eligible 55+ year olds through Vermont Associates for Training and Development. To learn more, contact Rick Smedley at rsmmedley@vermontassociates.org or 802-828-0036.

FEAST Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help support the work of the FEAST Kitchen at the Montpelier Senior Activity Center. Help us feed over fifty neighbors recovering from surgery or homebound for medical reasons by delivering meals once a week! Our greatest need right now is on Wednesday mornings, from 10:30-11:30am. If you are interested in this role, please contact FEAST Program Coordinator Jessica at feast@montpelier-vt.org.

We are also looking for volunteers to help at the front of the house during FEAST Together Community Meals. Volunteers are needed to help check in guests and serve food on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 11:45am-1:00pm. All interested volunteers will receive training for their role and are welcome to take a meal following the completion of their shift. For more information, or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Becky at rjohnston@montpelier-vt.org, or by calling 802-225-8694.

Touch a Truck 2019

Do you have a vehicle that might fascinate and delight young ones? Montpelier Recreation is planning Touch a Truck 2019, and are in search of some fun vehicles to display. Tractors, fire engines, ambulances, police cars,

construction vehicles, pirate ships and everything in between welcome! Please contact Eric at ewhite@montpelier-vt.org for more information. Touch a Truck will be taking place on Sunday, May 19 from 11:00 – 2:00 pm at the Montpelier High School.

Spring Classes with delayed start dates begin at MSAC soon!

There is still space in all the following classes and workshops. Please contact the Community Services Front Office at 802.223.2518 or by stopping by Mon – Fri 9 am – 4 pm to register today!

- Advanced Yoga Workshop, 5/8 only, for ages 50+
- Tile Making with Janice Walrafen, starts 5/15 for ages 7+
- Financial Foundations, begins 5/21 for ages 50+
- Drawing the Figure, begins 5/27, for ages 18+
- Somatic Movement: Core Strength, begins 6/7 for ages 18+
- Summer Solstice Continuous OM Workshop, 6/21 only, ages 50+

Volunteers Help Clean Up and Plant on Montpelier Bike Path

The Montpelier Tree Board and volunteers have been planting trees for the past few weeks and have planted well over 60 trees throughout Montpelier. Earlier this week, a fantastic group of 12 volunteers from National Life helped Parks & Trees pull invasive species and replace them with trees along the bike path near the Peace Park. On Friday, May 3, a group from Two Roads Academy braved the weather and helped to continue this great work on the bike path. The fruit and nut trees are a huge improvement over the invasive we pulled out! Many thanks to all who came out! On Thursday, May 2, Tree Board members and Park staff received a state tree city award during an Arbor Day conference, acknowledging the tree work taking place in the city of Montpelier.

Public Works

DPW Street & Water/Sewer Divisions:

Main Street / Towne Hill Road Sewer Main Project (beginning next week):

Trenchless utility pipe rehabilitation technology has been in use for several years and DPW has made use of this process to a limited extent. Although it remains a costly alternative and not viable in some circumstances, the internal lining of an old pipe results in far fewer impacts than open trench excavation projects and the end result is a new pipe in every sense. The department is excited to move forward with our first full sewer lining contract. Back in 2018 the city started pursuing sewer main lining as an alternative to open cutting the sewer network in order to maintain existing infrastructure. The sewer on upper Main Street is in deplorable condition with numerous patches and leaking joints allowing ground water to infiltrate. Preparation requires a thorough cleaning of the pipe and then inserting a video camera to document all of the service connection and identifying any areas not suitable for lining. The process involves pushing an inverted felt liner filled with an epoxy resin into the sewer main. The epoxy resin will then be cured with steam to make it pliable and will form a seamless pipe within a pipe. Service laterals that were pre-located with the video will then be cut and opened using a self-propelled robot to restore flow to customer. While this process is under way the contractor, Insituform Technologies, Inc., has asked residents to reduce their water consumption to prevent back up into houses until the service laterals are opened. An informational notice was mailed to all the homes in the affected area and additional notices will be hand delivered to houses once the schedule is narrowed down.

The involved area is from a manhole located between the Loomis St./Whittier St. intersection to a manhole located on Towne Hill Road easterly of Leap Frog Hollow. We have arranged for traffic control to be managed by flaggers to be on site with Insituform while the workers and service vehicles are in the street. The project is expected to take 3-4 days versus what would normally take a couple months to complete if open cut excavation.

This project is expected to eliminate ground water infiltration to the city's main which contributes to sewer system overflows (CSO). Preventing ground water infiltration is one of the planned strategies in our Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) to reach our ultimate goal of eliminating sewer overflows. Another benefit of sewer lining is reducing the coefficient of friction by replacing a rough pipe interior and multiple joints with a smooth pipe wall. This improves pipe capacity without increasing the size.

The Water Division was forced to contend with several water main leaks on Sibley Ave this last week. The old 4" cast iron main is located very close to the storm water system causing great difficulty in finding the leak because water did not bubble directly to the surface. The main is also excessively deep in some areas adding to the repair difficulty and increasing safety hazards. Engineering and management staff is considering advancing the planned replacement of this main possibly as soon as this summer. A minor leak was also detected on Deerfield Drive and the city crews are arranging a time to repair this leak next week if possible.

The Street Division continues to work on spring clean-up work, patches where and when possible and pavement restoration of the several winter water leak trenches, sweeping streets, fixing plow damage, cleaning and repairing catch basins, etc. They will be picking up all of the Green-Up day bags beginning Monday morning.

One Taylor & Shared Use Path Project: Drywall is being hung on the 4th floor and insulation is being installed on the 3rd floor. All mechanical, plumbing, and electrical inspections have taken place on the 3rd and 4th floor and inspections will occur next week on the 2nd floor. The exterior stone siding will also continue to be placed next week. Roadway and path construction will also continue next week.

Shared Use Path Project (Granite St – Gallison Hill Road):

Multiple consecutive work sites persist throughout the length of the project with the various crews the contractor now has working. Storm drainage and retaining wall work continues on Barre Street, slope work along Old Country Road has resumed where possible considering wet conditions, final restoration is taking place in some areas and road work continues on Gallison Hill Road. Major work still to come includes additional retaining walls in the Barre Street area, the storm water bio-retention system near Caledonia Spirits and construction of the path along Sabins Pasture. The project is slightly ahead of schedule at this early juncture. Traffic advisory notice continues: Multiple & concurrent work zones will be active on Barre Street & Gallison Hill Road over the next several weeks. Motorists are being advised to expect construction delays and to seek alternate routes if possible or allow additional time if passing through the work zone.

WRRF:

Montpelier's Water Resource Recovery Facility has completed some stormwater work in order to keep all storm water self-contained on-site to avoid the need for additional state permitting as part of the planned project. The purpose of this work was to prevent any possible spill that may occur during the facility's upgrade from reaching the river. Now all storm water that falls on site will be treated within the facility.

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UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS (TENTATIVE)...

May 8	Ch. 1 Ordinance Amendments, 2 nd PH ATCM Ch. 2 Ordinance Amendments, 1 st PH ATCM Tax Stabilization CM Appt: Complete Streets ATCM Energy Report MEAC/Finance Strategic Plan CM Summer Meeting Schedule – CM Sanctuary City	May 22	ADA Report DPW Parking Ban debrief DPW Ch. 2 Ordinance Amendments, 2 nd PH ATCM Ch. 3 Ordinance Amendments, 1 st PH ATCM Five Home Farm Way – CM Validation Resolution – CM Strategic Plan work plan - CM
June 12	Ch. 3 Ordinance Amendments, 2 nd PH ATCM Ch. 4 Ordinance Amendments, 1 st PH ATCM	June 26	Ch. 4 Ordinance Amendments, 2 nd PH ATCM Ch. 5 Ordinance Amendments, 1 st PH ATCM
July 10	Ch. 5 Ordinance Amendments, 2 nd PH ATCM Ch. 6 Ordinance Amendments, 1 st PH ATCM	July 24	Ch. 6 Ordinance Amendments, 2 nd PH ATCM Ch. 7 Ordinance Amendments, 1 st PH ATCM



William Fraser
City Manager